REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 8, 2005. Claims 1 to 34 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the remarks.

Claims 1- 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmeier (U.S. Patent Application No. 200/0003881) in view of York-Smith (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,648). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Reitmeier and York-Smith teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1-34.

Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, "a scrambler for encrypting at least one first unit using an encryption key; a steganographic unit for embedding the encryption key into at least one second unit for the data stream." Claims 14, 20, 32 and 33 recite, *inter alia*, "steganographically embedding the encryption key into at least one second unit for the data stream."

Referring to claims 8, 26, and 34: claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, "a key extractor for extracting an encryption key steganographically hidden in at least one first unit in the data stream received from the server." Claims 26 and 34 claim, *inter alia*, "extracting an encryption key steganographically embedded in at least one second unit in the data stream."

Reitmeier teaches a method for dividing an information stream into a collection of segments and compressing the segments, rearranging the order of the segments and encrypting the segments (see Abstract). Reitmeier does not teach or suggest a steganographie unit for embedding an encryption key as claimed in claim 1, steganographically embedding the encryption key as claimed in claims 14, 20, 32 and 33, a key extractor for extracting an encryption key steganographically hidden as claimed in claim 8 or extracting an encryption key

steganographically embedded as claimed in claims 26 and 34. Indeed, as stated in the Office Action of February 8, 2005, "Reitmeier et al. do not teach a system or method of a server comprising a steganographic unit for embedding the encryption key into at least one second unit..." Therefore, Reitmeier fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 26 and 32-34.

York-Smith teaches method for encrypting a data stream (see col. 4, lines 23-56). York-Smith does not teach or suggest a steganographic unit for embedding an encryption key as claimed in claim 1, steganographically embedding the encryption key as claimed in claims 14, 20, 32 and 33, a key extractor for extracting an encryption key steganographically hidden as claimed in claim 8 or extracting an encryption key steganographically embedded as claimed in claims 26 and 34. York-Smith teaches an encryption method in which random numbers, e.g., L_1, S, L_2, F and K, are placed in a control block (see col. 4, lines 52-54). The random numbers correspond to various encryption settings, such as the encryption function (see col. 4, lines 25-27). The random numbers are not an encryption key. The random numbers merely correspond to encryption settings. Thus, the random numbers are not an encryption key to be embedded or extracted. Therefore, York-Smith fails to teach or suggest a steganographic unit for embedding an encryption key as claimed in claim 1, steganographically embedding the encryption key as claimed in claims 14, 20, 32 and 33, a key extractor for extracting an encryption key steganographically hidden as claimed in claim 8 or extracting an encryption key steganographically embedded as claimed in claims 26 and 34.

Further, York-Smith teaches that the random numbers are placed in a control block (see col. 4, lines 53-55). Placing a number in a control block is not analogous to a steganographic operation. Steganography is the art and science of writing hidden messages in such a way that no

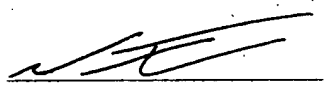
one apart from the intended recipient knows of the existence of the message; this is in contrast to cryptography, where the existence of the message is clear, but the meaning is obscured. Merely placing a number in a control block does not teach a stegangraphic operation. Therefore, York-Smith does not teach or suggest that the random numbers are steganographically embedded, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 20, 32 and 33, claims 8, 26 and 34, and claims 14 and 32. York-Smith does not teach or suggest a system or method for steganographic operations. Therefore, York-Smith fails to cure the deficiencies of Reitmeier.

Neither Reitmeier nor York-Smith teach a steganographic operation. Therefore, the combined teachings of Reitmeier and York-Smith do not teach or suggest a steganographic unit for embedding an encryption key as claimed in claim 1, steganographically embedding the encryption key as claimed in claims 14, 20, 32 and 33, a key extractor for extracting an encryption key steganographically hidden as claimed in claim 8 or extracting an encryption key steganographically embedded as claimed in claims 26 and 34.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Claims 9-13 depend from claim 8. Claims 15-19 depend from claim 14. Claims 21-25 depend from claim 20. Claims 27-31 depend from claim 26. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for the independent claims. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, claims 1 to 34 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated. For the forgoing reasons, the application, including claims 1 to 34, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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